



SKELMERSDALE & HOLLAND URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

**Annual Report
on the
Health of the District
During the Year 1968**

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on the
Health of the District
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BY

J. GORDON HAILWOOD, M.D., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health.



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SKELMERSDALE & HOLLAND URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
(Formed 1st April, 1968)

Chairman of the Council :
Councillor G. C. BAMFORTH, J.P.

Vice-Chairman of the Council :
Councillor A. R. LYON.

Members of the Council :

Councillors—

| | | |
|------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| T. L. Baxter. | W. Birch, D.F.M. | J. Cadwell. |
| A. Davies, C.C. | P. Edwards. | A. Glover. |
| A. D. Hardisty. | L. J. Kedward. | N. Lomax. |
| P. Martland. | Rev. J. R. Macauley, B.Sc. | C. R. Matthews. |
| T. McCracken. | S. S. Pennington, D.F.C., B.A. | R. L. Nuttall. |
| T. H. Whitfield. | | |

SOCIAL WELFARE COMMITTEE

Chairman :
Councillor P. EDWARDS.

Vice-Chairman :
Councillor J. CADWELL.

STAFF

Medical Officer of Health :
J. G. HAILWOOD, M.D., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
(Part-time)

Deputy Medical Officer of Health :
J. D. DIAMOND, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
(Part-time)

Chief Public Health Officer :
P. GLADWIN, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., M.R.I.P.H.H.

Additional Public Health Inspector :
L. LANCASTER, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Trainee Assistant Public Health Inspector :
J. I. YATES.

Clerk/Shorthand/Typist :
Miss J. J. BIRCHALL.

To: The Chairman and Members of the Social Welfare Committee.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the first Annual Report on the combined district of Skelmersdale and Holland.

The health of the district remained good throughout the year, although 292 cases of infectious disease were notified, of which 230 were Measles. When the programme for immunisation against Measles becomes fully accepted, it is hoped that the number of cases will be drastically reduced.

The birth rate was 19.7 per 1,000 population compared with 16.9 for the whole of England and Wales.

The death rate was 12.9 per 1,000 population compared with 11.9 for the whole of England and Wales. The Infant Mortality Rate of 29 per thousand live births was rather high compared with the figure of 18 for England and Wales. However, 9 of the actual 13 deaths died under one week of age and were probably unpreventable.

Housing continues to improve and the face of Skelmersdale and Holland is changing rapidly. Of course, the major number of houses are now built by the Development Corporation—372 during the year, but the local authority built 33 and 6 were built by private enterprise.

It is most encouraging to find that considerable progress is being made with the Smoke Control programme and which will make the district a Smokeless Zone within the foreseeable future.

Finally, I would thank the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their interest and support during the year, and the Members of the staff for their ready help and co-operation at all times.

I am, your obedient servant,

J. G. HAILWOOD,

Medical Officer of Health.

July, 1969.

GENERAL STATISTICS

| | | | | | | |
|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------------|
| Area of District ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 7,537 acres |
| Population—Registrar General's mid-year estimate 1968 | | | | | | 21,870 |
| Total number of habitable dwellings ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 6,600 |
| Rateable value ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | £764,268 |
| Product of a penny rate ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | £3,002 |

The District embraces the designated area of Skelmersdale New Town, and with the increasing build-up here the character of this area has changed to residential and industrial, although the remainder of the District remains predominately agricultural in character.

VITAL STATISTICS

| | Male | Female | TOTAL | Rate |
|---------------|------|--------|-------|----------------------|
| Live Births: | | | | |
| Legitimate | 215 | 208 | 423 | 19.7 |
| Illegitimate | 13 | 9 | 22 | per 1,000 population |
| Still Births: | | | | |
| Legitimate | 2 | 8 | 10 | 22 |
| Illegitimate | — | — | — | per 1,000 births |

Live Birth Rate (Crude) per 1,000 population — 20.3

| | | | | |
|----------------------|-----|----|-----|-----------------------------|
| Total Deaths: | 103 | 79 | 182 | 12.9 |
| Infant Deaths: | | | | per 1,000 population |
| Under 1 year of age | 9 | 4 | 13 | 29 |
| Under 4 weeks of age | 6 | 4 | 10 | per 1,000 live births |
| Under 1 week of age | 5 | 4 | 9 | 22 per 1,000 live births |
| | | | | 20 per 1,000 live births |

Death Rate (Crude) per 1,000 population — 8.3

NOTES ON VITAL STATISTICS

Births

There were 445 live births registered in the Urban District during the year, of which 228 were male and 217 were female; included in this figure are 22 illegitimate births. The adjusted birth rate per 1,000 population was 19.7 compared with 16.9 for England and Wales.

Deaths

The total number of deaths registered in the Urban District during the year was 182, of which 103 were male and 79 were female, giving an adjusted death rate per 1,000 population of 12.9. The rate for the whole of England and Wales was 11.9.

Infant Mortality

There were no deaths during the year due to Zymotic or Epidemic diseases. There were, however, 13 deaths of infants under one year, of which nine died under one week. This gave an infant mortality rate of 29. The figure for England and Wales was 18.

Maternal Mortality

No maternal deaths occurred in the district during the year.

| Causes of Death | No. of deaths in 1967 | No. of deaths in 1968 |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Tuberculosis, Respiratory | 1 | - |
| Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus | 6 | 6 |
| Malignant Neoplasm, breast | 2 | 5 |
| Malignant Neoplasm, stomach | 1 | 6 |
| Other Malignant Neoplasms | 19 | 18 |
| Leukaemia, Aleukaemia | 2 | 1 |
| Diabetes | 3 | 5 |
| Other Endocrine, etc. Diseases | - | 1 |
| Other diseases of blood, etc. | - | 1 |
| Vascular lesions of nervous system | 19 | 4 |
| Coronary disease, angina | 17 | 3 |
| Hypertension with heart disease | - | 3 |
| Ischaemic heart disease | - | 38 |
| Other heart disease | 54 | 12 |
| Cerebrovascular disease | - | 24 |
| Other circulatory diseases | 5 | 6 |
| Influenza | 2 | 1 |
| Pneumonia | 11 | 5 |
| Bronchitis | 5 | 8 |
| Other diseases of respiratory system | 2 | 5 |
| Ulcer of stomach and duodenum | 2 | 2 |
| Other diseases of digestive system | - | 4 |
| Nephritis and Nephrosis | 1 | - |
| Other diseases, genito-urinary system | - | 3 |
| Diseases of musculo-skeletal system | - | 1 |
| Congenital anomalies | 2 | 5 |
| Birth injury, difficult labour, etc. | - | 3 |
| Other causes of perinatal mortality | - | 3 |
| All other defined and ill defined diseases | 18 | 1 |
| Motor vehicle accidents | 2 | 3 |
| All other accidents | 4 | 3 |
| Suicide | 1 | 2 |
| TOTAL | 179 | 182 |

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1968

| Notifiable Diseases | Total Cases at all ages | | | | | | 15 | 25 | 45 | 65 and over | |
|---------------------|----------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|----------|-------------|----------|
| | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | | | | | |
| Measles | 230 | 13 | 32 | 49 | 30 | 67 | 3 | 2 | — | — | |
| Dysentery | 6 | 1 | — | 2 | 1 | — | 1 | — | 1 | — | |
| Scarlet Fever | 19 | — | 2 | 2 | 1 | 12 | — | — | — | — | |
| Acute Pneumonia | 3 | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | 2 | |
| Whooping Cough | 23 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 5 | 6 | 2 | 1 | — | — | |
| Infective Hepatitis | 10 | — | — | — | — | 1 | 1 | 3 | 3 | — | |
| Puerperal Pyrexia | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | |
| Tuberculosis | 5 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | 3 | |
| TOTAL | 297 | 16 | 36 | 43 | 57 | 38 | 83 | 7 | 7 | 1 | 2 |

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

Laboratory Arrangements

Bacteriological examinations are carried out by the Pathological Department of the Wigan Royal Infirmary, Ormskirk Hospital and the Public Health Laboratories at Preston. These arrangements are satisfactory. A report on every examination is made to the Public Health Department.

The County Analyst at Preston carries out analyses of samples when requested.

Ambulance Arrangements

Ambulance services are provided by the County Council under the National Health Service Act, 1966.

National Assistance Act, 1948

No action was taken under section 47 of this Act during the year 1968 by the Authority.

Water Supply

Water is supplied by the Makerfield Water Board and the West Lancashire Water Board. The supply was satisfactory as regards quality and quantity. During the year samples were submitted for bacteriological examination.

Food Poisoning

No cases of food poisoning were notified during the year 1968 although one person suffering from *Salmonella Virchow*, contracted in Liverpool, moved into the district and was dealt with by the department.

Liquid Egg (Pasteurisation) Regulations, 1963

There are no egg pasteurisation plants in the district, and no samples of liquid egg were submitted to the Alpha-Amylase test.

HOUSING

The clearance of sub-standard dwellings does not now present a problem, and it is anticipated that those remaining will be dealt with as individual unfit houses rather than in clearance areas.

During the year your officers' attention was directed towards the possibility of improving both the houses and the environment in certain selected areas. In particular Crawford Village would appear to lend itself to this treatment, and the Council's Architect was approached with a view to the preparation of a scheme for this area. At the end of the year a survey had been completed, and it is hoped that with the coming into operation of the new Housing Act, expected next year, such schemes as this can proceed.

The main improvement scheme remains the Action Area in Skelmersdale, and the Chief Public Health Officer is most perturbed at the lack of speed of this operation, as far as the houses are concerned. The point must be made that these houses are not of the standard which one would normally associate with a scheme of this nature, and unless the speed of the operation is drastically improved upon, a number of the properties involved could well sink into the category of being unfit, and not repairable at reasonable expense. This has already happened in two instances.

Determination of the structural condition of these properties and its effect upon their life expectancy after improvement is the responsibility of the Chief Public Health Officer, and it is his considered opinion that in order for the scheme to remain a viable proposition, speed in improving the houses themselves must become top priority. Environmental works, whilst very desirable, must in this particular scheme take second place if there is any question of the diverting of labour from house improvement.

HOUSING STATISTICS

1. Number of new dwellings erected during the year.

Traditional permanent houses :

| | Houses | Flats |
|--|---------|-------|
| (i) By Local Authority | 33 | - |
| (ii) By other Local Authorities | - | - |
| (iii) By other bodies or persons | (378) | |

2. Total number of dwellings existing in district at end of year owned by Local Authority : 1,430.

3. Inspections of dwelling houses during the year

(I) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected formally or informally for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)

| | |
|---|-----|
| (b) Number of inspections, formal or informal, made for the purpose | 515 |
| (c) Number of dwelling houses in (a) above found to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation but capable of being rendered fit | 42 |
| (II) Total number of dwelling houses existing at end of year which were unfit for human habitation and not capable of being rendered fit, in respect of which : | |
| (a) Demolition, Clearance or Closing Orders have been made (at any time) | 39 |
| (b) Demolition, Clearance or Closing Orders have not yet been made. | 99 |

4. Houses Demolished.

In or adjoining clearance areas :

| | Number Demolished | Displaced during year | |
|---|----------------------|-----------------------|----------|
| | | Persons | Families |
| (1) Houses unfit for human habitation | - | | |
| (2) Houses included by reason of bad arrangement, etc. | - | 31 | 10 |
| (3) Houses on land acquired under section 43 (2) Housing Act 1957 | - | | |

Not in or adjoining clearance areas:

| | | | |
|--|----|---|---|
| (4) As a result of formal or informal procedure under section 16 or 17 (1) Housing Act, 1957 | 17 | 4 | 2 |
| (5) Local Authority owned houses certified unfit by the Medical Officer of Health. | - | - | - |
| (6) Houses unfit for human habitation where action has been taken under local Acts. | - | - | - |
| (7) Unfit houses included in unfitness orders. | - | - | - |

5. Unfit Houses Closed

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| (1) Under Section 16 (4), 17 (1) and 35 (1), Housing Act 1957, and Section 26 Housing Act 1961. | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| (2) Under Section 17 (3) and 26, Housing Act 1957 | - | - | - |
| (3) Parts of Buildings closed under Section 18, Housing Act, 1957. | - | - | - |

6. Unfit houses made fit and houses in which defects were remedied.

| | By Owner | By Local Authority |
|--|-------------|-----------------------|
| (1) After Informal action by Local Authority. | 93 | - |
| (2) After formal notice under: | | |
| (a) Public Health Acts. | 3 | - |
| (b) Sections 9 and 16. Housing Act, 1957. | - | - |
| (3) Under Section 24, Housing Act, 1957. | - | - |
| (4) After modification or revocation of a Clearance Order under Section 24 of the Housing Act, 1957. | - | - |
| (5) After determination of a demolition order under Section 24 of the Housing Act, 1957. | - | - |

7. Unfit Houses in Temporary use (Housing Act, 1957).

| | Number of Houses | Number of Separate Dwellings |
|--|---------------------|------------------------------------|
| Position at end of year. | | |
| (1) Retained for temporary accommodation: | | - |
| (a) Under Section 48 | - | - |
| (b) Under Section 17 (2) | - | - |
| (c) Under Section 46 | - | - |
| (2) Licensed for temporary occupation under Sections 34 or 53. | - | - |

8. Purchase of Houses by Agreement

| | (1) No. of Houses | (2) No. of occupants in houses in column (1) |
|--|----------------------|---|
| Houses in clearance areas other than those included in confirmed Clearance Orders or Compulsory Purchase Orders. | - | - |

9. Housing Act, 1949 and Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1958.

| IMPROVEMENT GRANTS, ETC. | Private Bodies or Individuals |
|--|---|
| | No. of dwelling houses or other buildings affected |
| Action during year: | |
| (a) Submitted by private individuals to Local Authority. | 15 |
| (b) Approved by Local Authority. | 15 |
| (c) Submitted by Local Authority to Ministry. | - |
| (d) Finally approved by Ministry. | - |
| (e) Work completed. | 10 |
| (f) Additional separate dwellings included in (e). | 1 |

10. House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959—Standard Grants.

| | No. of dwelling houses or other buildings affected |
|--|--|
| Action during year: | |
| (a) Applications submitted to Local Authority for improvement to: | |
| (i) full standard; | 15 |
| (ii) reduced standard. | — |
| (b) Total applications approved by Local Authority for improvement to: | |
| (i) full standard; | 15 |
| (ii) reduced standard. | — |
| (c) Work completed | 12 |

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER FOOD HYGIENE

Standards of hygiene in retail establishments were generally satisfactory, although it was found that in some instances standards had been allowed to decline. In these cases informal warnings brought about the necessary improvement.

A gap in present legislation allows meat pies to be exposed for sale without suitable temperature control. This practice can have very serious results, and until the law covers this point, retailers should see to it that pies, whether exposed for sale or not, are kept at a proper temperature. If heated for sale, they should after heating be kept at a temperature of 145°F, or above, until sold. If sold cold, they should be kept below 50°F. Only in this way, together with proper handling and attention to personal hygiene, can conditions conducive to the growth of food poisoning organisms be avoided. This is particularly important in a district such as this, where we are partial to a good pie, and where pie consumption is much higher than usual because of the large number of construction workers who are employed on the building of the New Town, and who purchase warm pies regularly for their mid-day meal.

More attention needs to be paid to the complete separation of cooked and raw meats, and the use of separate utensils in their handling. Raw meat is an important source of some types of food poisoning, and cross infection from raw to cooked meats is a real danger.

FOOD PREMISES

| | | | | | | | |
|--|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|----|
| Butchers ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 8 |
| Bakers ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 3 |
| Grocers and General Stores ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 43 |
| Greengrocers ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 4 |
| Fishmongers ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 3 |
| Fishfryers ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 5 |
| Licensed Houses, Clubs, Canteens ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 54 |

REGISTERED PREMISES

| | | | | |
|--|-------|-------|-------|----|
| For the storage and sale of ice cream ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 40 |
| For fish frying ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 5 |
| For sausage manufacturing and preparation of meats ..... | ..... | ..... | 12 | |
| Number of visits to food premises ..... | ..... | ..... | 125 | |

MEAT INSPECTION

No meat inspection is carried out, there being no abattoir in the district.

REJECTION OF UNSOUND FOOD

During the year the following were rejected as unfit for human consumption: 58lbs. canned goods; 20 bars chocolate; 17lbs. cod fillets; 5lbs. baby foods.

Three separate infestations of foodstuffs by ephestia larvae and one by ptinus tectus (spider beetle) were effectively cleared. These infestations point to the necessity for continuing education of food handlers in the importance of proper organisation in the business of selling food, with attention to such matters as stock rotation and regular examination.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955 — SAMPLING

A total of 72 samples were obtained by the Lancashire County Council, comprising 34 milks (of which six were Channel Islands milk) and 38 others as follows :

| | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| 2 headache powders | 2 Liquid Paraffin B.P. |
| 1 fresh fruit | 1 fresh meat |
| 1 ground rice | 1 blancmange powder |
| 2 custard powder | 1 plain flour |
| 1 baking powder | 1 dried skimmed milk |
| 1 table jelly | 3 cheese |
| 1 meat and vegetables, canned | 2 pickles |
| 2 honey | 2 aspirin tablets |
| 1 tincture of iodine B.P. | 1 analgesic tablet |
| 2 dried fruit | 1 icipen V tablet |
| 1 pain relief capsule | 1 dried sliced onion |
| 1 full fat soft cheese | 1 mincemeat |
| 1 oatmeal | 1 icing sugar |
| 1 treacle | 1 syrup |
| 1 sodium bacorbonate B.P. | |

After submission for examination to the County Analyst, all the above samples were reported to be genuine.

CLEAN AIR

The Skelmersdale Urban District Council (No. 3) Smoke Control Order came into operation on the 1st October, 1968, and the Skelmersdale and Holland Urban District Council (Nos. 4 and 5) Orders were made and submitted for confirmation before the end of the year.

A newly built tunnel kiln came into operation during the year at a local brickworks. Although this kiln itself was the source of considerable pollution during its commissioning, the trouble was finally cured. At this time a further two chimneys, serving an old Hoffman kiln, were taken out of service, and for the first time for many years the emissions from this works, which have previously caused very heavy atmospheric pollution, can be said to be satisfactory.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

All houses in the district, with the exception of a few outlying ones, are now served by public sewers. The present position is that 5 middens and 9 pail closets exist, the remaining properties having W.C.'s.

REFUSE COLLECTION

This is carried out by the Engineer and Surveyor's Department. Disposal is by controlled tipping.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

The following contraventions of the Act were discovered during the year 1968:

| | | | | |
|---|-------|-------|-------|---|
| Failure to provide thermometer ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 7 |
| Failure to post Abstract of the Act ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 2 |
| No proper first aid equipment ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 3 |
| Inadequate lighting ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 1 |
| Inadequate ventilation ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 1 |
| Inadequate washing facilities, etc. .... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 5 |
| No handrail ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 1 |
| Disused trap doors not secured ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 1 |
| Lift motor defects ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 1 |
| Notices complied with during year: 3. | | | | |

THE OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963
REGISTRATION AND GENERAL INSPECTION

A.

| Class of Premises | Number of premises registered during the year | Total No. of premises registered at end of the year | Number of registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year |
|--|---|---|--|
| | | | |
| Offices | 7 | 23 | 3 |
| Retail Shops | - | 55 | 39 |
| Wholesale shops, warehouses | - | 1 | - |
| Catering establishments open to the public, canteens | - | 22 | 2 |

B. Number of visits of all kinds by Inspectors to registered premises: 44.

ANALYSIS OF PERSONS EMPLOYED IN REGISTER PREMISES BY WORKPLACE

C.

| Class or Workplace | Number of Persons employed |
|--|----------------------------|
| Offices | 80 |
| Retail Shops | 197 |
| Wholesale departments, warehouses | 1 |
| Catering establishments open to the public | 37 |
| | 315 |
| Total males: | 106 |
| Total females: | 209 |

D. No. of Inspectors appointed under Section 52(1) or (5) of the Act: 2.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

1. Number of rodent operatives employed:

- (a) Full-time: One.
- (b) Part-time: One

2. Action taken relating to rodent control during year ended
31st December, 1968:

| | Type of Property | |
|--|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| | Non-Agricultural Dwelling Houses | Agricultural |
| No. of properties in district | 6,600 | 76 |
| No. of properties inspected after notification | 198 | 31 |
| No. infested by: | | |
| (i) rats | 81 | 18 |
| (ii) mice | 112 | 11 |
| Total No. of properties inspected for rats or mice other than notification | 32 | - |
| No. infested by: | | |
| (i) rats | 11 | - |
| (ii) mice | - | - |

Contracts for the control of rats and mice by the Local Authority have been signed by a number of local firms.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

| Premises | Number on Register | Number of | | Occupiers Prosecuted |
|---|--------------------------|-------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| | | Inspections | Written Notices | |
| I. Factories in which section 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority | — | — | — | — |
| II. Factories not included in (I) in which section 7 is enforced by Local Authority | 71 | 59 | — | — |
| III. Other premises in which section 7 is en- forced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises) | — | — | — | — |
| TOTAL | 71 | 59 | — | — |

2. Cases in which defects were found.

| Particulars | Number of cases in which defects were found | | | Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted |
|---|---|----------|-----------------------------------|---|
| | Found | Remedied | Referred: to H.M. Inspector | |
| Want of Cleanliness (S.1) | - | - | - | - |
| Overcrowding (S.2) | - | - | - | - |
| Unreasonable temperature (S.3) | - | - | - | - |
| Inadequate Ventilation (S.4) | - | - | - | - |
| Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) | - | - | - | - |
| Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) | - | - | - | - |
| (a) Insufficient | 7 | 1 | - | - |
| (b) Unsuitable or defective | - | - | - | - |
| Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-Work) | - | - | - | - |
| TOTAL | 7 | 1 | - | 1 |

